

Boggs, Hebert Praise Nixon China Visit Plan

Congressmen Hale Boggs and F. Edward Hebert of New Orleans today applauded President Nixon's decision to visit Red China, calling the trip a step in the difficult search for world peace.

The two New Orleanians, each of whom holds a ranking position in the House, agreed in separate interviews that, while the Nixon visit to China was a calculated decision not assured of immediate success, the risks were worth taking.

Boggs, House majority leader, said: "President Nixon has worked hard and seriously for world peace. He has carried on long negotiations with the Soviets at the so-called SALT disarmament talks in Helsinki, Finland, and his trip to China is a further pursuit of world peace. I am glad he reassured our allies that his visit to China does not represent a lessening of our friendship with them."

"I KNOW the entire nation, regardless of political party, will support him in this very difficult project. I might also point out that the President has asked the Democratic and

Republican leaders of Congress to meet with him at 8:30 a.m. Monday in the White House to discuss plans for his visit to Red China."

Hebert, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said: "The statement of the President on his visit to Red China indicates the broad scope of the mission he is undertaking and the leadership he is bringing to the quest for world peace. I like what President Nixon said. I recognize these are agonizing decisions to make, but we are living in a world of reality and not fantasy. If we can bring peace to the world in our time, steps that were considered unattainable yesterday may be reasonable tomorrow."

Hebert added that "at a time when many people are insisting on the right to know all details of government" — referring to the furor over the Pentagon papers — Nixon's visit to China "could not have been arranged without the secret visit to Peking by presidential advisor Dr. Henry Kissinger."

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